



**Meet Me
at the
Kettle**



**Officership
The First
100 Days**

**Forcing the
Homeless to
Seek Shelter?**



Salvationist



The Voice of the Army

Salvationist.ca | December 2009



**O COME,
LET US
ADORE HIM**

Bottoms Up?

The social drinking debate between Dr. James Read and Captain Amy Reardon (Alcohol and Abstinence, September) was great. I have never smoked or drank and I think I have a good life. One of the problems we have in the Army these days is that most people don't know the real difference between a soldier and an adherent. They think that we should move away from soldiership and everyone should be made adherents because of the pressures in life on our young people. Some feel that they would not be able to keep the Soldier's Covenant. We need to stick to our standards and not give in to the pressures of society.

Dan Millar

What is social drinking? Is that when one decides to drink poison that changes who you are, destroys you, your family and your job, and causes you to do all manner of unusual things that you normally wouldn't do? I've been there, but in the last 35 years, while I worked in corps, corrections and rehabilitation centres, I've seen the destruction. So, what is the question?

Major Alonzo Twyne

We should stop kidding ourselves. The Army's opposition to drinking is nothing more than a residual human tradition that we cling to. The Army's stance arose at the exact same time as a larger cultural movement against drinking. Since then, Army theologians and apologists have struggled to invent all kinds of other reasons and rationales to support this opposition; to sanctify it and make it into something directed by God, rather than a human tradition.

That's not to say that some of those desperate arguments are not actually true. There are, for example, some social, medical and economic problems associated with drinking. But that does not make the Army's opposition any more legitimate. The truth is that alcohol was given by God as a gift to humanity. Like any of his gifts, we can abuse it. Like many of his gifts, it has been degraded by the fall. But like all such things, the proper Christian response is to redeem it and show the world how God intended it to be enjoyed. The sooner

we start doing that, the sooner we will start actually doing something about the issue of problem drinking in our world. Until then, we're just sticking our heads in the sand.

Chris Stephens

Praying for a Miracle

I recommended this article (A Season of Healing, October) to our congregation for reading. We have been experiencing similar things this year in our church family at Cedar Hill, Bermuda, and I was encouraged by reading it.

Major Cavell Loveless

Youth Focused

As I began to read the article (The Youth Have Spoken, November), I thought that the Army was listening to the youth of the Army. Then the author [James Pedlar] confesses to have spoken to only 40 persons. I wonder when the Army will seriously start to listen?

Donald Jefcoat

In interviewing the young people, how much time was spent in determining why the kids that stayed in the Army did, in fact, stay? Do we have a list of the reasons why they continue to attend the Army? In determining where to put effort in keeping them in a corps, we also need to know the answers to these questions.

Jo Lobb

Editor's Note: Hundreds of young people participated in this research project. It was a smaller group of 40 who helped craft the final recommendations. As well, the full report (available at Salvationist.ca/2009/territorial-young-adult-research-project) outlines a number of reasons why many youth continue to choose to be Salvationists.

No Retreat, No Surrender

Thank you, Major Julie Slous, for this important article (Our Unwavering Mission, October). I think the world still needs The Salvation Army, and more importantly, God is still working through his Salvation Army. What the Army will look like today and in the future, is a question worth considering.

I'm a traditional Salvationist (however you interpret that) yet my wonderful corps is not traditional by any means. When I explain Salvationism to my new converts, should I simply give them a run-down of our Army traditions and say, "Try to fit in where you can"? Or, should I teach them the essence of Salvationism and then try to help them define what that means for them? It is clear, though, that people still need the Army. Let that be an encouragement to all of us to keep on fighting for God.

Lieutenant Robert Jeffery

Prayer for Victims

I thought that the brochures and information sent out for the weekend of prayer for victims of sex trafficking (More Precious Than Silver, September) were great. We had 21 individuals at our church for a prayer time and we had two individuals who did a prayer walk around our community of Kitchener, Ont. It is vital that we continue to pray against human trafficking.

Major William King

Social Networking

I was not a fan of Facebook (Tap Into Technology, October), but through it have now found a way to connect with the church family. Share your faith with others, because we are better together.

Henry Armstrong

Through social networking sites such as Facebook, you can pick up ideas for sermons and meetings. Great read and a good way to see what others are doing in our great Army.

Anne Ackerley

Editor's Note: To become a fan of Salvationist magazine, visit Facebook.com/Salvationistmagazine.





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Come On, Ring Those Bells ...

Thanks to dedicated kettle workers, thousands of people will have a merry Christmas

Rick Warren's Purpose-Driven Christmas

The greatest gift we can ever

receive is available to us all—if we choose to open it

Away in a Manger

Would an infant meltdown or a diaper malfunction ruin the Christmas pageant? Could Baby Jesus handle the pressure?

Make this special issue of Faith & Friends a part of your ministry this Christmas. E-mail circulation@can.salvationarmy.org or phone 416-422-6112 for details.



Edge for Kids is an exciting, weekly activity page published by The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda. Designed for children five to 12, it contains Bible stories, puzzles and news about young Salvationists.

- Share them at Sunday school or kids' club
- Place copies in hampers distributed by your food bank
- Distribute them at the kettles this Christmas
- Send a gift subscription to your nieces, nephews and grandchildren

To order Edge for Kids, e-mail circulation@can.salvationarmy.org or phone 416-422-6112.

A Christmas of Firsts

The year was 1976 and my wife and I had just received our first appointment as a married couple in Melfort, Sask. To our delight, our first child arrived early in the fall. For the first time, I stood by a kettle outside the local Steadman's store in temperatures that dipped to -30 C. It was also my first real exposure to poverty at a level that I had not encountered before.

A prairie town of 5,000 located 300 kilometres north of Regina, Melfort was enjoying a time of economic prosperity. The harvest had been plentiful and the farmers were smiling from ear to ear. The response of the community to the Army's kettle campaign was generous. Times were good, but not for everyone. There was a dark side that was hidden from the townspeople's view.

When I asked the public health nurses for names of families that could benefit from a Christmas hamper from the Army, they directed me to families living on the outskirts of town. Many were unemployed single moms struggling to survive. They lived in shacks lacking modern conveniences that most of us take for granted. Their yards were strewn with rusted-out vehicles from a bygone era.

My parents had joined us in December to see their grandchild and to lend a hand during the busy Christmas season. And so on a bitterly cold day under clear skies, my father and I set out in a car filled with food hampers, wrapped toys and handwritten directions to places unknown.

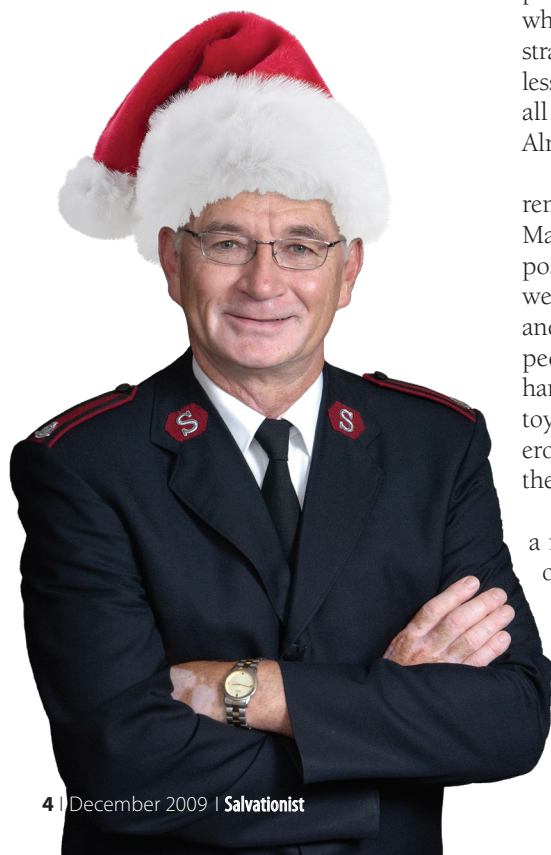
Off the main highway, the roads were seldom signposted. The odd grain elevator, country store and barn were the only landmarks. At one point we skidded off the road to avoid an oncoming pickup truck as we did our best to follow directions: "Three miles south on Highway 6. Turn left at the Co-op gas station and go east for two miles. Turn left at the United Church and then right past the Cargill grain elevator. Second house on the right. Beware of dog!"

Our final delivery was to Olive, a single mom with five children ages three to 13. To say they were poor would be an understatement. We found her and two of her children at home. Because she had no telephone, the nurse had not informed Olive that the Army lieutenant would be calling with a Christmas hamper. Our visit was a complete surprise.

Dad and I unloaded the food and toys, and following a brief conversation and a prayer, we said our goodbyes to a mother who was left speechless by the kindness of strangers. The two young children were far less timid. They had proceeded to unwrap all of the gifts during our talk with the Almighty!

Years later, my father and I still reminded each other of that eventful day. Many played a role in making the gifts possible to Olive and the others. There were volunteers who stood on the kettle and rang the bells in the cold; there were people who purchased and packed the hampers, searching carefully for the right toys for the children; and there were generous citizens who trusted the Army with their hard-earned donations.

For the first time, Christmas took on a new and fresh meaning for a young officer blessed with more than one could deserve.



MAJOR JIM CHAMP
Editor-in-Chief



Giving Hope Today

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Mission

The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world. *Salvationist* informs readers about the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda.

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First Prairie Youth Councils

THIRTY-EIGHT TEENS and their leaders gathered in September at Beaver Creek Camp, Saskatchewan, for the first youth councils of the new Prairie Division. Since the weekend coincided with the General's call to prayer for victims of human sexual trafficking, organizers used the theme as the launching point for the weekend.

Saturday was designated Freedom Day, with a focus on social justice. The teens focused on consumerism, one area where they can have a great impact. They were also reminded of what it is like to be divested of individual freedoms and forced into slavery.

Captain Mark Hall, territorial youth secretary, emphasized the freedom that only Christ can bring. During the Sunday session, he encouraged the youth to make a personal covenant to choose freedom in their individual lives.

As one of the organizers for the weekend, Captain Corinne Cameron, area youth secretary, Saskatchewan, commented that it was moving to see how the teens lined the mercy seat, confirming their commitment to respond to the challenges laid out for them.

Youth Shelter Supports Bulgaria Mission

A VOLUNTEER AT Sutton Youth Shelter, Ont., inspired the young people to contribute gift bags for women they had never met, in a country they will probably never visit. Pastor Lynn Ironside of the Harvest Family Community Church, Roches Point, Ont., helps to prepare breakfast at the shelter on Friday mornings. In the spring, she shared her plans to participate in a mission trip to Bulgaria where she hoped to distribute practical items to women and children. Shelter staff recognized this as an opportunity to work with the youth and partner with Ironside.

In May, one staff member and 10 young people sewed 150 drawstring gift bags from donated fabric and filled them with toiletries. The project was a learning opportunity for the youth of the shelter—many of whom had never used a sewing machine before—and a chance for them to help others half a world away.



Bulgarian women express their thanks for the gift bags from the Sutton Youth Shelter

Quebec Women Gather For Fellowship and Teaching

LAST SEPTEMBER, 81 women gathered in Montreal at Quebec Divisional Headquarters for a day of inspiration, fellowship and teaching. Béatrice Swift, a facilitator for a Montreal literacy program for immigrants, gave the main address, *For Such a Time as This*, in French. Her words were simultaneously translated into English and Spanish for the diverse crowd.

Swift based her message on the story of Esther and challenged the group to believe in God, continuing to trust him even when they can't see him working. "God has been at work in our lives, preparing us for our present and future challenges," she assured them. Swift encouraged the audience to "shine as stars, to stand up and speak up for our faith in such a time as this."

The women appreciated hearing the testimony of Major Alison Cowling, assistant chief secretary. Major Cowling shared how God has worked in her life throughout her officership, with each appointment building upon the previous one, equipping her for the next step of her journey.

The audience was not only linguistically varied, it also reflected a generational span, with the ages ranging from 10 to 87. At the end of the day, 25 women stood for prayer, making fresh commitments to be witnesses for Christ in their daily lives.



Guest speaker, Béatrice Swift, and Mjr Kathryn Trim, DDWM, Que. Div

Did You Know ...

... The Salvation Army, along with St. Joseph's Food Bank in Pembroke, Ont., went door-to-door at the end of September to collect donations for the area's foodbanks?

... farmers from the Barrie, Ont., area donate fresh fruit and vegetables to the city's foodbanks, including the Army's? Produce collected includes tomatoes, carrots, peas and beans

... The Salvation Army provides one third of all shelter beds in Canada?

... New Zealand Salvationists Roland and Belinda Hinmueller are travelling on their tandem bicycle from Alaska to Argentina? Along the way, they are volunteering at many Army locations, including Prince George, B.C., where they served meals at the soup kitchen. The pair are recording their journey on their website, cycling withsally.com

... in Dunville, Ont., The Salvation Army organizes Sleep in the Park to give residents a chance to experience what life on the street is like for homeless people? Now in its fourth year, the program has become so successful that nearby cities of Hamilton, London and St. Catharines, Ont., have held their own Sleep in the Park events

Agincourt Has Panache

WHAT DO YOU get when you bring together a corps band, a young people's band, a divisional YP band named Blood and Fire Brass and an internationally renowned euphonium virtuoso? You get Panache, a concert held at Agincourt Community Church, Toronto, in October to support youth music ministries. It is also the name of a new recording by New York's Aaron VanderWeele and Bandmaster Bill Way, Agincourt Community Church.

The Agincourt Intermediate Band, comprised of more than 20 young and young-at-heart musicians, contributed two pieces, *And Can it Be?* and *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*.

Blood and Fire Brass, under the direction of Bandmaster Derrick Fishwick, entertained and ministered to the crowd. Agincourt's senior band presented a lively combination of Gowans and Larsson tunes called *Music Maker*.

The highlight of the evening was the performance of Aaron VanderWeele. He testified to his Christian faith by citing the words *God's Love to Me is Wonderful*, which are associated with the music of his solo, *My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose*, by Kenneth Downey.

VanderWeele is enthusiastic about mentoring the next generation of musicians and spends many hours teaching and leading.



Agincourt YP Band rehearses with Aaron VanderWeele

When Bandmaster Fishwick commented to him that the young people would be inspired by him, his reply was, "I am absolutely inspired by them."

Proceeds from the evening and the recording will be used to support youth music ministry in Canada and the United States.

Motorcycle Club Christmas Campaign

FOR THE 26TH YEAR, the Saints and Sinners motorcycle club supported The Salvation Army's Christmas campaign in Kentville, N.S. More than 45 club members took part in the annual toy ride in September. At its conclusion, Craig Sandford, club president, and Patrick Kadey, club vice-president, presented Major Ross Grandy, corps officer, with toys and a cheque for \$250.



From left, Craig Sandford, Mjr Ross Grandy and Patrick Kadey

Lots of Apples in Leamington

THE SALVATION ARMY in Leamington, Ont., received 34,000 kilograms (75,000 lbs) of apples, donated by Thiessen Orchards of Leamington. The apples will be distributed throughout the Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent counties in addition to a shipment to Haiti. "We are very proud of and thankful for the volunteers who spent countless hours picking and distributing, and especially to the Thiessen family for their kind donation," says Captain Corvin Vincent, corps officer.



Cpt Corvin Vincent accepts a basket of apples from Peter Thiessen, owner of Thiessen Orchards

Marching On in Cobourg

Photo: Peter Fisher, Sun Media



The Cobourg Concert Band and the Canadian Staff Band march through downtown streets of Cobourg, Ont.

SALVATIONISTS IN COBOURG, Ont., held a memorable 125th anniversary celebration in October with guest speaker Major Andy Miller, Jr., U.S.A. Central Territory, and the Canadian Staff Band.

A corps dinner on Friday night set the stage for the weekend with a look at the past through displays of old pictures, uniforms and instruments that brought history to life.

The Canadian Staff Band arrived on Saturday and immediately made its presence known with a march to the town hall, where a brief gathering took place. Greetings were brought by representatives of the provincial and federal governments, and Cobourg Mayor Peter Delanty, who commended the Army for its practical and spiritual ministry in the community. A highlight was the presence of the Cobourg Concert Band. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the concert and staff bands marched to St. Peter's Anglican Church for an evening concert, playing the well-known Salvation Army tune *Montreal Citadel*.

Sunday worship, led by Captains Jim and Debbie Sinclair, corps officers, featured the staff band, the corps' mime group, Louder Than Words, and lively singing and testimonies. In his message, Major Andy Miller challenged his listeners to live out the "next chapter" of the Book of Acts by continuing to work and witness in their everyday lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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- 6 AVE MARIA
- 7 CHRISTMAS LULLABY (I WILL LEAD YOU HOME)
- 8 SWEET LITTLE JESUS BOY
- 9 MARY DID YOU KNOW?
- 10 SHEPHERD'S SONG
- 11 WE ARE THE REASON
- 12 WHO WOULD IMAGINE A KING? (FROM 'THE PREACHER'S WIFE')
- 13 A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER
- 14 COME TO JESUS
- 15 CAROL OF THE BELLS
- 16 SILENT NIGHT
- 17 DECK THE HALL

All My Heart *Rejoices*

What a night! The night our
Saviour was born. A night to
rejoice with all our hearts


BY GENERAL SHAW CLIFTON

Sweet angel voices, sounding far and near, announced his birth: Christ is born! It was as though the entire sky announced this matchless message. Joy filled the air. Joy-bells still ring to hail his coming.

If we listen carefully, our ears attuned, we can still hear the holy baby's first cry from the manger in Bethlehem. It is as though from birth he has been calling us, entreating, pleading with us to flee from the snares and dangers that await our souls. "Come to me," he says. "Leave all that grieves and burdens you. I can offer freedom. I can give you all you need."

So let us accept his divine invitation, you and I together. Let us do so without delay. He invites us all. He calls to the lowly and the great alike. We cannot impress him with our education or our income, so whoever we are we approach him together with awe and wonder as equals. He invites us to commit ourselves to him. He wants us to return the love he offers us all. The Christmas star, high and bright in the sky, is a hope-filled sign of divine love.

Coming to the newborn Christ Child is a signal that we have come to our senses. We come to him, deciding to live in obedience to him, and finding our hope of Heaven in him. He offers us the matchless prospect of living with him forever. Who else promises matchless joy both now and in all eternity?

For all these reasons my heart rejoices. Christ is born! 



General Shaw
Clifton is the world
leader of The
Salvation Army.

With acknowledgements to Paulus
Gerhardt (1607-76) and The Song Book of
The Salvation Army, No 73





A Sacred Image

The Salvation Army's Red Shield has become a traditional Christmas symbol of warmth and compassion

BY LT-COLONEL LYNDA WATT

Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmastime in the city." First sung in 1951 by Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell, and composed by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans, *Silver Bells* was inspired by the imagery of Salvation Army bell ringers standing outside department stores during the Christmas season. After being recorded by Bing Crosby and Carol Richards 57 years ago, the song has been heard every December since.

In both classic and modern Christmas films, The Salvation Army kettle, with its Red Shield, often makes an appearance. A simple and powerful backdrop that sets the holiday mood, it's a symbol that brings

There is probably
no other **religious
denomination** that
can be represented in
one simply **designed
graphic**

a sense of warmth, caring and community. The Red Shield communicates help and hope. It is synonymous with meeting the

deepest human needs, such as responding to floods and fires, disaster and disappointment. From a catastrophic tsunami to the scourge of human sex trafficking, its shape tells the story: a shield that guards and protects.

The Red Shield is more than an internationally recognized symbol—it is an icon. In technology that connects us every day, icons are a part of our words, thoughts and actions. Our computer screens would be useless without them to guide and direct. The word icon is derived from the Greek word for image. In that sense we could not dispute that the image of The Salvation Army is a powerful one when meeting the needs of the marginalized and those in distress. Who could forget the moving television commercial following the devastation of hurricane Katrina, with the Salvationist standing on a rooftop, kettle and bell in hand, with flood waters rising?

But to focus solely on that social aspect would fail to encompass the full mission of the Army. We have been described as an airplane: one wing being our service to humankind, the other reflecting the spiritual needs of society. The Red Shield celebrates both elements of our mission.

By definition, an icon is a representation of the sacred, a symbol of the holy and divine. Our corps and community churches represent just that. They are simple buildings where people of all ages meet to become energized in their spiritual journey, to receive a fortifying inner strength to help face the daily challenges of life. They are places where one can sense the closeness of the sacred, the holy, the divine. Salvation Army churches are relational places, spaces in which new friends share together in the fellowship that is the Church.

There is probably no other religious denomination that can be represented in one simply designed graphic. The shield communicates our *raison d'être*, our motivation to reach out spiritually. It's a Jesus "brand," for Jesus' sake. A recently published study of the world's most valuable brands indicated that to be successful, the entire organization must embrace it. For our organization that includes not only our social services but also our worshipping community.

The Salvation Army's Red Shield should find a visible place on all our buildings. It is a sign, a symbol and an icon, declaring our sacred mission. ☸

Lt-Colonel Lynda Watt is the assistant to the property secretary, THQ.

The First 100 Days

After three months in my first appointment, this is what I've learned about life as a Salvation Army officer

BY LIEUTENANT ROBERT JEFFERY

I can still hear the words hanging in the air: "I commission you as an officer in The Salvation Army and appoint you to Spryfield Community Church, Maritime Division." It has been 100 days since that special moment and I am now in the thick of things, fully immersed in my new appointment. My bags are unpacked, I have a general knowledge of the layout of my community in Nova Scotia and I even know where the best coffee shop is. More importantly, I am getting to know the members of my congregation and the people of my town. So, journey with me as I tell you about my first 100 days as a Salvation Army officer.

Privilege of Service

The salvation war that I find myself in is both hard-fought and fulfilling. As an officer I am privileged to share in other people's lives in a way that most never experience. People have a high expectation that I'll be able to help them. As a



Lt Robert Jeffery advocates on behalf of the poor and marginalized at the Make Poverty History rally and march

minister of the gospel and a community advocate, my voice is sought out on a wide range of issues.

Maritime people, by and large, have an abiding respect for members of the clergy, so very quickly I've become well-known throughout the community. Within my church, I feel the people have truly embraced my wife, Hannah, and me as their officers and treat our son, James, like he's one of their own.

I've buried a long-attending adherent and dedicated a child, whose family is new to our fellowship. I have yet to officiate at a wedding but trust that occasion will come soon. As an officer I will have a front-row seat to the many special occasions in people's lives: from cradle to grave, I'll journey with them, sharing in their joys, triumphs and tragedies.

Inside and Outside

I have represented The Salvation Army in a number of public occasions. Hosting a meeting with our provincial minister of immigration was a wonderful opportunity as it allowed me to share with government the challenges that immigrants and refugees face in coming to Atlantic Canada. Though glad to have engaged in the dialogue, it was unnerving at the same time as it was something I could never have done in my own strength.

Marching with the Army flag through the historic streets of Halifax in support of the city's Make Poverty History campaign was a privilege as well. As a Salvationist,

there's something thrilling about hoisting the colours in the open air, engaging in an intentional public witness. It spoke to my true calling as an officer "to care for the poor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, love the unlovable and befriend those who have no friends." To be faithful to this calling requires me to sometimes speak on behalf of those who have no voice.

But it's not all about dedicating babies and waving flags. Much of my day-to-day activities as an officer are mundane, predictable and sometimes tedious. Administrative tasks can take up a lot of my day, if I allow them to. Fortunately, I am blessed with good employees and volunteers who help ease the burden, freeing up much of my schedule so that I can visit with my soldiers, adherents and members of the community. I do recognize, however, the importance of being a good administrator. Carrying out our mission in a time of fiscal restraint requires creativity. I believe that it is precisely when times are tough that we should be the most extravagant in the giving of our resources. "God can only fill empty cupboards" is the motto at our corps.

Another blessing is working alongside my wife. Being ordained and commissioned as a couple has been a constant source of joy in my first 100 days of officership. Though many pastors integrate their spouses into ministry, the Army is unique in encouraging both husband and wife to work together as co-pastors. This is a wonderful aspect of our tradition.

Challenges in Ministry

While working with your spouse in ministry is very special, it does present certain difficulties. Deciding who does what in ministry, who visits whom and who preaches when are things we've had to work out—conversations that to an outsider would have seemed quite comedic. Fortunately, when tensions arise we are able to take a step back and laugh about it. But working alongside of your spouse in the demanding vocation of ministry is something that, outside of officership, I would never have experienced.

Dealing with conflict is another hazard of the job. Recognizing that a church is comprised of many people with different personalities, sometimes, in our humanity, these differences can divide the body of Christ. As an officer I'm prone to take it personally when people have issues with one another, wanting them to reconcile quickly. I now realize, however, that conflict between people can take time to heal. Besides encouraging those involved, it's really up to the Holy Spirit to convict and inspire change in someone's life.

Another substantial challenge new officers face in their first appointments is where to begin. There are so many ideas and plans running through my mind of new and different ways our corps could do ministry, that it can feel overwhelming. The *Orders and Regulations for Corps Officers* require new officers to abstain from making drastic changes in the corps for the first six months. That's not to say that no change will occur in those early days, but it's a wise provision designed to guide officers in making changes that will ultimately last—changes that should only be made after the trust of the people is gained.

100 Days and Onward

At the conclusion of my first 100 days of officership, my thoughts turn to the next 100 days, months and subsequent years. Lord willing, I have nearly 40 years of officership to look forward to. I love talking to retired officers and hearing their battle stories. I wonder what stories I'll amass over the next four decades? When I see my retired colleagues—inheritors of the Movement created by Booth, Railton and Tucker—I reflect on the responsibility that has been passed on to me. What will be the role of an officer in the 21st century? What kind of leadership is required for this day and age? To create a firm foundation for the next generation of saints, I must be authentic in thought, word and deed.

Though I've spoken of officership in grand, sombre terms, did I happen to mention that officership is a blast? I had no idea that I would receive so much enjoyment from living out my calling. Being an officer in an age when religion is in decline and faith seems to be losing its place within the public sphere may seem like more trouble than its worth. Strangely, though, it is these difficult conditions that give officers more opportunity to be creative in their calling to preach the Word of God. The slate of the past has been wiped clean, allowing us to re-invent ourselves as a Salvation Army. To represent God's Army for the people of today, while maintaining the fundamentals of our past, is an exciting challenge that I live out each and every day. ☸

Lieutenant Robert Jeffery is the corps officer of Spryfield Community Church, N.S.

Lts Robert and Hannah Jeffery with Spryfield's girls' choir



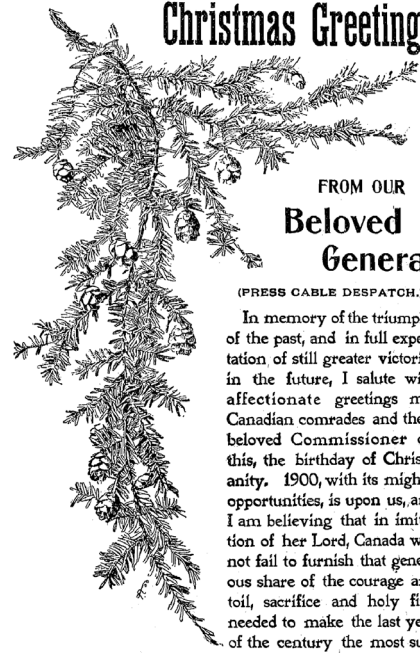
125 Years of Salvation Army Publishing

December 23, 1899

Christmas Greetings

FROM OUR
**Beloved
General**

(PRESS CABLE DESPATCH.)



In memory of the triumphs of the past, and in full expectation of still greater victories in the future, I salute with affectionate greetings my Canadian comrades and their beloved Commissioner on this, the birthday of Christianity. 1900, with its mighty opportunities, is upon us, and I am believing that in imitation of her Lord, Canada will not fail to furnish that generous share of the courage and toil, sacrifice and holy fire, needed to make the last year of the century the most successful of our history. The blessing of the Christ of Bethlehem be on your hearts and homes.

Regard me as your eternal comrade,

William Booth

January 6, 1900 Winnipeg's Free Christmas Dinner

Major Southall reports to *The War Cry* by wire that "Christmas dinner for 1,100 persons great success.... Four hundred of these sent to persons unable, for different reasons, to leave their homes. Much sympathy manifested by citizens and great interest throughout the city.... Foreigners wept at the tables as band played, doubtless recalling memories of home beyond the sea. If effort served to brighten surroundings for Christmas Day it was worthy."

January 23, 1960 Winter Sunshine

Under the leadership of Captain and Mrs. D. McNeilly, four senior soldiers were sworn in under the flag on Christmas Sunday at Welland, Ont. On Christmas Day, the corps provided the inmates of the county jail with their dinner and some entertainment. Two hundred and fifty "sunshine" bags were packed and distributed at the hospital, the home for the aged and the jail. ☸

The Joy of Giving Back

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Salvation Army ministries from coast to coast

BY MAJOR MAX STURGE, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Fulfilling a God-inspired Dream

When he stands at the kettle, Jim Hardiman knows he's helping to feed the hungry

LAST WINTER, when Jim Hardiman returned home to St. Catharines, Ont., from working on a ship on the Great Lakes, he volunteered on a Salvation Army canteen truck. Realizing how costly it is to help the poor, Hardiman then volunteered 70 hours to stand beside Christmas kettles. "I enjoy ringing the bell at the liquor store with my Christmas music playing in the background and watching people give generously for the needy in our community," he says. "It is a wonderful opportunity to meet many different people and to fulfil my God-inspired dream of feeding the hungry."

Hardiman's wife, Eva, supports him on the canteen truck and on the kettle. "We are hoping to give 100 hours on the kettle this year," he says. "That is nothing compared to people who are out in the cold. We know that God has called us all to feed the hungry."



Jim Hardiman is ready to serve



Gustavo Martinez (first on left) and his friends find joy in helping others

Giving Back to Canada

Gustavo Martinez is full of hope for the future

MOST OF THE VOLUNTEERS at Montreal's community and family services are immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries in South and Central America. New to Canada, they are without a network of contacts, friends and shared experiences, but through the Army receive valuable work experience.

When Gustavo Martinez came to Canada with his wife and four children, they were able to rent an apartment, but had no furniture. The Salvation Army's family services provided clothing, mattresses and food.

"I was so grateful," says Martinez. "I asked how I could pay them back and ended up working voluntarily every Friday in the family services warehouse as a handyman—fixing doors, moving skids, unpacking boxes and cleaning the floor. It's my way to give back to Canadian society and to help people. I have a lot to be thankful for: my kids go to school in a safe environment, my family eats every day and we have a home. We are full of hope for the future."

A Community Response

The Fire and Food initiative is a source of thanksgiving for Langley residents

DAVID BACKIE and his fellow Fort Langley, B.C., firefighters delivered 1,200 empty bags to local residents in September. A month later, they picked up the bags filled with donated foods to stock The Salvation Army's food bank. Backie, the founder of this initiative, felt proud of the community's response. "Thanks to all these donations," he says, "people in need can have a better chance at having a real Thanksgiving dinner. I hope the Fire and Food concept can spread to other fire halls in Langley and be instrumental in feeding the community's hungry."

"There were 3,364 pounds of food collected, probably double from last year," says Envoy Gary Johnson, corps officer at Langley South—The Salvation Army Gateway of Hope. "It's an example of the wonderful support of Fort Langley residents and it will help us out a lot."



David Backie (second from left) and his fellow firefighters collect food for those in need

Photo and information: Langley Advance

Using Talents for Others

For those struggling with addictions, Carol Finch's friendship is a cut above

CAROL FINCH visits The Salvation Army's Addictions and Residential Centre in Edmonton on the first Tuesday of every month to cut residents' hair for free. She also provides them with a listening ear. "I used to have my own hair salon," says Finch. "Believing God wants us to use our gifts for others, I volunteered to cut the men's hair at the ARC. Coming from a background of multiple addictions, I identify with the men and their struggles." On most Tuesdays, Finch will cut the hair of 15-20 men. "The men

really look forward to her visits," says Major Elaine Bridger, assistant executive director. "They appreciate her time and her listening ear. She does a marvelous job and is very faithful."



An Edmonton ARC resident gets a professional haircut

Helping Hurting People

For 20 years, Joan Crooks has served Halifax women in need

AS A VOLUNTEER at Halifax community and family services, Joan Crooks regularly helps out with the take-a-break program. She provides women with clothing and food, and takes time to speak with them. "I love helping hurting people," she says. "One young woman had been abused and kicked out of her home by her boyfriend with only the clothes she was wearing. We provided food, clothing and arranged for her to go to a woman's shelter."

Crooks has been volunteering for 20 years. "Joan's robust nature and energy have proved to be valuable assets in the general operation of our community and family services," says Major Karen Ingram, divisional secretary for adult ministries, Maritime Division. "She has been recognized at volunteer appreciation functions for her dedicated service."



Joan Crook's toys bring joy to children

Toys for Tots

Ontario's Peel Regional Police and The Salvation Army brighten Christmas for thousands of children

BY KEN RAMSTEAD, EDITOR, FAITH & FRIENDS AND FOI & VIE



From left, Dianne Falkinson, Constable Kerry Vandrish and Constable Holly Faulkner

A constable of the Peel Regional Police's 22 Division was on patrol in Mississauga, Ont., shortly before Christmas in 1993. The problem of what to do for children whose parents could not afford presents weighed heavily on him. He decided to collect as much Canadian Tire money from friends and colleagues as he could, then he paid a visit to his nearest Canadian Tire store.

From such modest beginnings, the Toys for Tots Program has grown dramatically. And despite rough economic times, more than \$900,000 worth of toys were donated or purchased in 2008—\$150,000 more than in 2007 and double the amount from just three years ago. The figure is expected to climb over the \$1 million mark this year.

Identifying Needs

Success brings its challenges and the police soon realized that while they were effective at collecting funds, they needed an agency to assist in the distribution.

This is where The Salvation Army came into play. "We were singled out for our reputation," explains Dianne Falkinson, program developer and Toys for Tots representative at the Mississauga community and family services centre. "They knew

we were out there working in the community, and they knew they could trust us to get the toys to those kids who really needed them, and to do it in an efficient manner."

"Like The Salvation Army, we identify a need and we serve it," says Constable Kerry Vandrish, the Peel Regional Police chair of Toys for Tots. "Community-based assistance is what both organizations are about."

How It's Done

Throughout six weeks in November and December, Peel Regional Police officers volunteer their time, collecting Canadian Tire coupons and money from store clients. "Even though five cents or 10 cents of Canadian Tire money may not seem like much," says Constable Vandrish, "when it adds up, we're talking thousands of dollars."

Area schools and businesses run their own sub-campaigns in conjunction with Toys for Tots. "It's unbelievable to see a company's front office stuffed with toys," says Constable Holly Faulkner, assistant chair. Individual donations can also be dropped off at local malls, fire halls and other locations across Mississauga.

Two police officers as well as a police

cadet are freed up from their regular duties during this period to deal with the paperwork, man the phones and co-ordinate assignments. Almost 600 officers volunteer their time collecting Canadian Tire money in the stores, assisting in toy-bagging and participating in special events, such as the charity hockey game hosted by Sheridan College. Then, over the course of six Wednesdays, six police as well as Salvation Army volunteers make early morning runs to Canadian Tire stores.

How are the toys chosen? "When we've interviewed families in need, we've also inquired about the children's interests—favourite TV shows, hobbies and so on," explains Falkinson. "With these lists, we tailor the gifts to the children. It's a lot more work, but it's worth it." Thousands of dollars are spent purchasing the toys that will brighten the hearts of thousands of children at Christmas.

"We're Here to Help"

"Last year in the region of Peel, we helped 7,000 children," says Falkinson. She speculates that many more families who are struggling could be helped if people were more aware of the service offered by the Army. "We've tried quite a bit of advertising over the last couple of years to make people understand that this is for everybody," she notes. "If you are financially struggling this year, we're here to help."

"Even though five cents or 10 cents of Canadian Tire money may not seem like much, when it adds up, we're talking thousands of dollars"

Christmas Redux

Though much of their work takes place behind the scenes, both constables have seen the joy on the faces of children when they drop off presents at shelters and hospitals all over Mississauga in time for Christmas Eve. "Nothing beats see-

ing how happy they are,” says Constable Faulkner.

“We received a letter last year from a gentleman who was incarcerated,” Falkinson goes on. “His family was living in our community, and even in his time of incarceration, his concern was for his children and his wife. But he knew that if he contacted us, we’d make sure his children would not go without toys.”

A more serious case occurred a couple of years ago. A family was living with a husband struggling with addictions. The day before Christmas Eve, he’d sold everything in their apartment—including all of the toys they had received through Toys for Tots—to feed his habit. “He’d even sold their Christmas tree,” adds Falkinson. “The mother called us in tears. We had volunteers go and pack up all their belongings, and we moved the mother and her kids to a new apartment on Christmas Eve—complete with new toys under a new tree.”

A Matter of Trust

Why do these police officers and Army members give so much of their time to this campaign?


“I have three children of my own who have never wanted for anything at

Christmas,” says Constable Vandrish. “But I’ve been on call to houses where children do need help, who don’t even have a matching pair of shoes to their name. I woke up one day and realized, ‘This is what I want to do.’ I’ve been a part of Toys for Tots for eight years.”

“We dedicate a lot of our time from September to the end of January to this,” adds Falkinson. “For us in family services, the rest of our mission must go on. It’s a very busy time of the year to add this to our existing duties, but it’s a true


privilege to be able to meet with families and share God’s love through Christmas by giving.”

What makes Toys for Tots a success? “We couldn’t do this by ourselves,” asserts Constable Vandrish, “but neither could The Salvation Army. And as for the public, we would not exist without their generous donations.”

“It’s really a matter of trust,” concludes Falkinson. “The people who give the toys and the money trust us all to do the right thing with them, and we do.” 




Peel Regional Police and Canadian Tire volunteers at a Toys for Tots rally last year



Christmas

with The Salvation Army




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Waiting on God

As we approach the Christmas season, let us prepare our hearts and minds to experience the Saviour

BY MAJOR SHAWN CRITCH

Are you ready for Christmas? Are the gifts bought, cookies baked, cards mailed, house decorated, heart prepared? Yes, that's right, heart prepared.

The Christian Church has celebrated Advent—the four Sundays before Christmas—since the fourth century. For nearly 1,700 years, congregations have focused their corporate and individual attention on repentance, promise and hope with the eager expectation of the arrival of a Saviour. Are we ready to hear God speak to us? Are we ready to give ourselves in service to him? Are we ready to be transformed?

The Christmas story is filled with individuals who waited on God and experienced the certainty of personal sacrifice and transformation.

- **Elizabeth**, heartbroken with barrenness, waited on God for the promise of a child. Her husband, **Zechariah**, after a moment of doubt, was given the opportunity to think it over as he waited in silence for nine months for the arrival of his son, John (see Luke 1).
- **Mary**, at the risk of public ridicule and personal sacrifice, willingly accepted the blessing of being chosen by God with simple words of obedience (see Luke 1).
- **Joseph**, too, shared in this journey. Having been ready to divorce Mary privately, he looked to the future while learning to wait on God and trust in his plan (see Matthew 1).
- **Simeon** had been waiting for years for the “consolation of Israel,” all the

while trusting in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He welcomed the awesome privilege of holding the promised One, knowing that after many years of anticipation, he had witnessed God's salvation in the flesh (see Luke 2).

- And then there was **Anna**, who had been widowed for many years following only seven years of marriage. For the rest of her long life she remained in the temple day and night, praying and fasting as she looked forward to the redemption of Israel (see Luke 2).


In all their personal waiting we observe a stirring act of obedience and commitment to God. A willingness to hear him and an openness to trust in his plan, timing and perfect will.

Admittedly, we are not a people ready to wait for things to happen. We are driven to make things happen. That is not necessarily a bad thing. However, imagine the potential conflict when we bring this attitude to our spiritual journey. It's possible that we may miss the significance of waiting on God and thereby neglect his invitation to allow him to work in and through us as his covenant people. Do we run the risk of assuming responsibility for what can only be the work of the Holy Spirit? Does our failure to wait on God in private and corporate worship limit the depth of our relationship with him and, consequently, our spiritual growth?

When we daily wait on God we can expect great things. We must not rush the moment, but allow ourselves to linger in his presence. This Advent season, spend

quiet moments at the manger. Smell the hay, hear the cries of a newborn child, see Jesus' tiny hands stretch heavenward and hear Mary sing her lullaby. Above all, know that your Saviour is waiting for you and humbly receive his love.

Sometimes the familiarity of the Christmas story can prevent us from hearing its message. This year, for me the message is plain and simple: “I wait for the Lord, I expectantly wait, and in his word do I hope” (Psalm 130:5 *Amplified Bible*).

Embrace the opportunity to wait on God this Christmas. And in your waiting, remember that it is not just about what we can receive. Rather, it is all about what we might give ... our whole hearts in gratitude and service to him. 

Preparing for Advent

Allow the Holy Spirit to influence your everyday activities. Let him guide you in paths of truth and righteousness, exposing disobedience and empty religious ritual, correcting your mistakes, renewing your thinking and training you to live a mature life that will glorify God.

Have a willingness and desire to listen.

That can be challenging in our private and public worlds of distraction and conflict, of self-sufficiency and independence.

Embrace God's plan for your life.

Sometimes our fear of what God might say or do creates a barrier. We need to hear again the message of the angels, “Fear not.” God is waiting for us to accept his promises, his presence and his power.

Major Shawn Critch is the property secretary, THQ.

Meet Me at the Kettle

An opportunity to share stories and to make new ones

BY MAJOR FRED ASH



One of the things that frustrates me during Christmastime is that I keep losing my wife in the malls. She will probably tell you that it is the other way around—she keeps losing me.

You know how it is. You are shopping together and talking, weaving in and out and around other shoppers and suddenly you realize that you are talking to yourself. Somewhere between the shoe store and the video store she disappeared. Something caught her eye and she stepped behind a coat rack and “puff,” she vanished. So you spend the next half-hour peeking into boutiques, stretching your neck around corners and sitting on benches, hoping to catch sight of her. And when you do find her, she says, “Where have you been? I wanted you to look at this dress.”

But this year I have a solution. When we go into the mall we’ll check our watches and head in different directions. She will shop for me and I will shop for her, and we will meet at the kettle at a designated time.

I assume that you know what I mean when I refer to the kettle. The Salvation Army Christmas kettle. Some people call it the Salvation Army bubble. It’s that plastic thingy hanging from the red stand, alongside of which is usually a smiling,

The Christmas kettle is that plastic thingy hanging from the red stand, alongside of which is usually a smiling, young Salvationist

young Salvationist thanking those who drop donations into the little money slot. And by the way, those money slots are way too small ... I know because I have often been the smiling, young Salvationist standing there. OK, I’m not so young anymore, but I’m still smiling, and I have a lot of memories of kettle experiences.

There was that young mother with her seven-year-old daughter. The mother helped the little girl put a donation in the bubble and I smiled and said thank you. Then she proceeded to tell me about her wedding. She said that when her fiancé gave her an engagement ring, she was very excited but thought it was way too expensive for a Christian to wear. A few

days later, she and her fiancé went back to the jewelry store and exchanged it for a less expensive one and received a refund for the difference.

Because it was near Christmas, the Army kettles were in the malls. She and her fiancé walked up to one of the kettle stands and stuffed the refund into the little money slot. Every year since, she has gone to the mall with their children and repeated that act of generosity. And each Christmas, she tells the person at the kettle the story of her engagement ring.

Then there was the time when someone walked up to the kettle I was manning and left me with a six-pack of beer. Actually, it was a five-pack, because he kept one for himself. Now you must know that as a Salvationist I do not drink, but I did not have time to explain this to the generous donor. His wife had been baking a Christmas pudding and the recipe called for so many ounces of beer. She sent him to the store to get some but he couldn’t buy just one bottle, so he bought a case, took one out and placed the six-pack-minus-one at my feet, saying that perhaps someone else was baking and might need it.

Before I could explain that this was probably not a good idea, he was gone. There I was in full Salvation Army uniform standing at the kettle with a case of beer (less one bottle) at my feet. I discreetly covered it with my overcoat. I knew that the donor’s heart was in the right place, but the beer was not.

Then I realized that here was a golden opportunity to have some fun. When my shift ended, I walked out of the mall with my overcoat over the beer case and headed for the corps officer’s house. Knocking on the door, I waited for him to appear. It was about 10 p.m. by now and he was no doubt putting the finishing touches to his sermon. When he opened the door, I thrust the box into his arms with a hearty, “Merry Christmas,” and headed back down the driveway. He was shouting something in the darkness as I got into my car, but my laughter drowned it out. I think it was something about what happened to the other bottle!

This Christmas I don’t know what stories will be created or told around the kettle, but if you see a lonely man standing nearby, straining his neck to find his wife among the thickening crowd, it’s probably me. ☺

Major Fred Ash is the corps officer at Burlington Community Church, Ont.

Our Unique Influence

We come by our military identity honestly. There is still a battle to be won

BY MAJOR JULIE SLOUS

You'd be amazed at what you can find in the pages of Salvation Army history. Not long ago, I stumbled over the haunting words of Brigadier Bramwell Taylor. In 1926, he asked how the Army might preserve its difference from the "ministering fraternity" of his day. In plain talk, Taylor was saying, "We Salvationists are 'not as others.' We are separate from the world and distinctly separate in the realm of religion." For Taylor, safeguarding the Army's distinctiveness from other churches was critical to our ongoing success.

All these years later, we still entertain wonder about our identity as Salvationists:

- Do we maintain our distinct image as a Salvation Army or should we become more like the church down the street?
- Are we missing something by not practising baptism or communion in our worship?
- Should we replace uniforms with less intrusive choir gowns?
- Does a military metaphor still work in a world torn apart by religious fanaticism?
- Have we reached a point where we should assimilate more fully with our own "ministering fraternity"?

In seeking to answer these questions, General Albert Orsborn offered an important perspective: "God did not want another church when he created The Salvation Army ... the skyline was already crowded with steeples." Something different was required to get the world's attention.

By God's design, he raised up The Salvation Army to become a unique and defining influence in Victorian society. Where the established church was failing to reach the heathen masses, the Booths saw a unique way to fulfil the Great Commission. Using the organizational structure of an Army, the Booths stepped

into a societal gap and redefined the face of religious institutions. Too many people were sitting on the margins of society. Was it possible the impoverished and enslaved could find their way into religious community?

While our early work was never without critique and opposition, the Army's impact is evident in the pages of our history. It was acknowledged not only in the testimonies of our early converts but also

by other churches: God was up to something through the Army.

In a centenary salute to the work of William Booth in 1929, the Rev. Thomas Phillips,

making Christ's love visible through an aggressive Army presence.

Can the Army metaphor still work for us today? Absolutely! It is this very image that helps us to extend the unique influence that has been respectfully attributed to Salvationists through the years. It is also this metaphor that gives us a unique place within the greater context of the Christian Church.

How is this so?

Armies command attention. With so many competing influences in the world today, the Church needs every possible means it has to draw attention to Christ. The Salvation Army is unlike any other religious expression of the Christian Church. By nature of our military organization and intentional uniformity, we, like secular armies, make our presence known. We command attention.

While some might argue this approach is outdated, they cannot dismiss the collaborative power of numbers to make a statement. A military friend reminded me recently that one of the principles of war is "concentration of force to meet objectives." William Booth recognized the influence a "concentration of force"

could have on his social context. And so we sing songs such as:

*Come, join our Army, to battle we go,
Jesus will help us to conquer the foe;
Fighting for right and opposing the wrong,
The Salvation Army is marching along.*
(SASB 681)

Have we forgotten the significance of marching in step with each other and the statement this makes to the world around us?

Armies communicate a message. Armies say, "We are serious about mission and we will not give up until the mission has been



president of the National Free Council Church, had this to say: "At a time when Christianity was thought to be essential, perhaps the greatest work was done for God outside the Church by a Christian man whom the Christian Church excommunicated. While we held to strict observances of sacraments and Sabbath ... along came this man who had no use for them at all.... This man got hold of the spirit of the sacraments, and a great church was built up."

The early Salvation Army found prominence in Victorian society because it was not stuck in "churchianity." The mandate was Christianity—to be a living sacrament,


completed.” This is clearly demonstrated in wartime when military personnel, in spite of casualties, determine to “stay the course.” For Salvationists, there can be no retreating in the work God has called us to do. The Army metaphor assists us in remembering the mission that not only defines us, but also sends us forward.

Armies convey the importance of corporate and personal discipline. In this age of increased public scrutiny, we cannot underestimate the significance of governing structures that hold us accountable to our mission. These disciplines, although sometimes perceived to be restricting, can become life-giving if we keep our focus and integrity and faithfully do the will of God.

Armies are a gathered host of the courageous and determined. Without courage, armies would never survive. Of William Booth, the Rev. Thomas Phillips said, “He did not treat the devil with the same respect of the established church. We are timid ... we like to keep the devil at a respectable distance ... we are inclined as churches to dig ourselves into trenches. [William Booth] was ‘over the top’ every time.”

When called upon to scale trenches and engage the enemy, soldiers rise to the challenge. I wonder what things would look like if Salvationists were “over the top” of the trench a little more.

Brigadier Bramwell Taylor wrote, “The Church regards us as specialists in this matter of daring personal dealing.” When it comes to our social services, we see what most don’t (as our Red Shield campaign slogan goes). The Salvation Army responds where many would turn away. It is this “difference” that has appealed to people all around the world. We Salvationists are “not as others.”

Maintaining our distinctiveness will safeguard our mission and strengthen us as an Army. While we will continue to partner and fellowship with other churches, we must remember what makes us unique. God’s plan includes The Salvation Army. There’s still room for more soldiers to scale the top of the trench. 

Next Month: Our Unrelenting Spirit

Major Julie Slous is the corps officer at Heritage Park Temple in Winnipeg. She has a doctorate in ministry from Luther Seminary in Minneapolis, U.S.A.

December 1-5

Focus on our Partners in Mission: Spain Command

- 1 Pray for Canadian officers Mjrs Shane and Pauline Gruer-Caulfield as they serve in the Mallorca Corps and train officers
- 2 Pray that the spiritually hungry will be satisfied through the emergency feeding kitchen programs in Barcelona and La Coruna
- 3 Pray for wisdom and protection for the officers and soldiers to boldly share the gospel
- 4 Pray that the spiritual momentum of the women who attended the Iberian women’s ministries conference will bear fruit
- 5 Pray that the social services opportunities will build trust in the communities served

December 6-12

Focus on the Corps Ministries Department

- 6 Pray that the Lord will continue to speak to people through Salvation Army music
- 7 Pray that corps/community centres will find ways to work together in reaching out to their communities
- 8 Pray for the delegates to the world youth convention in Stockholm, Sweden, July 9-16, 2010
- 9 Pray for a continued positive response to new initiatives in children’s ministries
- 10 Pray that God will use Careforce Lifekeys’ ministry workers to disciple people from brokenness to wholeness
- 11 Pray that the immigrant and refugee services’ vision to be in every ministry unit will impact the world for Christ
- 12 Pray that the Lord will awaken in every division an army of intercessors who are united in purpose

December 13-19

Focus on Living the Vision: We envision a territory of developing leaders

- 13 Pray for renewed vision for leaders engaged in children’s and family ministries
- 14 Pray for continued vision for the administrative staff of William and Catherine Booth College
- 15 Pray for grace to embrace change and develop a leadership style that respects tradition and facilitates renewal

- 16 Pray for God to raise up dynamic, Christ-centred servant leaders who set a clear vision and direction for Army ministries
- 17 Pray for God to give us a hunger for a greater knowledge of Scripture
- 18 Pray for a renewed vision for the administrative staff at the College for Officer Training
- 19 Pray that we will continue to participate in a learning, supportive network

December 20-26

Focus on the Birth of Jesus

- 20 Thank God for keeping his promise to save his people (see Genesis 3:14-15; Luke 2:11, 28-32)
- 21 Thank Jesus that even as a child he shared our suffering (see Matthew 2:13-15)
- 22 Thank God for speaking to us through his Son (see Hebrews 1:1-2)
- 23 Thank God for all the ways he has provided for you and your family materially and spiritually (see Philippians 4:19)
- 24 Ask God to nourish you through the written and living Word (see John 1:14)
- 25 Thank God for giving us a Saviour who will reign forever with justice and righteousness (see Isaiah 9:7)
- 26 Ask God to guard you against false messiahs (see Matthew 24:23-25)

December 27-31

Focus on Canada Ablaze

- 27 Pray that as the Olympic torch moves through Quebec it will be an inspiration to our youth
- 28 Pray for the torch to inspire a deeper unity in Quebec
- 29 Pray for the torch to become symbolic of the light of Christ through the Church’s outreach programs
- 30 Pray for the torch’s movement through Ontario to inspire, create and awaken a purpose for living in our youth
- 31 Pray for wisdom for the territorial Olympic mission team as they strategize for outreach

The Prayer Guide is available online at Salvationist.ca. To receive a copy by e-mail, contact Lt-Colonel Winsome Mason, territorial secretary for spiritual life development, at winsome_mason@can.salvationarmy.org

A Tale of Two Christmases

Whether in Yellowknife's white winter land or on Bermuda's balmy beaches, The Salvation Army brings holiday cheer to communities

BY CAPTAIN KIM WALTER, *Editor, Edge for Kids*

With an average December temperature of 24 C (75 F), Bermudians do not need to put on extra layers to head out to the Christmas kettles. In addition to singing traditional Christmas carols, Bermudians also enjoy secular Western holiday songs such as *White Christmas*, despite the fact that they will celebrate with sun, colourful flowers and bushes, turquoise blue sea and pink beaches.

"Whatever the weather, The Salvation Army is an important part of the festive season with brass bands serenading in the evenings throughout the city of Hamilton," says Rosemary Phillips, chaplain at Bermuda's Harbour Light and corps sergeant major at North Street Citadel. The Governor's House, Fairmount Southampton Princess Hotel, guest houses, private Christmas parties and sports clubs all invite The Salvation Army to participate in community celebrations.

Salvation Army corps across the island provide many opportunities for families to hear the Christmas story. There are carol festivals, children and youth concerts, candlelight services and parties.

At the divisional level, there is a carol festival organized by the divisional youth secretary. "All Salvationists, young and old, are invited to participate," says Phillips. "Corps officers and divisional leaders open their homes for a time of food, fun and fellowship."

On Christmas Eve, for the past 100 years, bands have stayed out all night. "The tradition began when many

Bermudians stayed up all night decorating their houses and cooking for Christmas," explains Phillips. Recognizing this, the bands began to stroll through residential streets to

play carols.

There is an annual Christmas dinner for the homeless, sponsored by a private donor. The Bermuda Divisional Band provides Christmas music as

the men and women eat their turkey and cassava pie meal with all of the trimmings, and receive a gift as well. "Cassava pie is a cake-like pie with a layer of chicken between the batter, made from grated cassava root," Phillips says. In addition, The Salvation Army distributes hampers with food and toys to many needy men, women and families, wishing them a blessed Christmas.

"The Salvation Army is very visible in Bermuda during the month of December, lifting up the name of Jesus with its music and many expressions of his love"

—Rosemary Phillips

Below: St. George's band helps with Christmas kettles. Bottom: A Salvation Army band plays for guests at Fairmont Hamilton Princess Hotel on Christmas Eve




While Bermudians enjoy their warm-weather celebrations, the residents of Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, welcome the festive season dressed in layers of sweaters and parkas. Majors Dale and Jo Sobool, corps officers, and corps members and volunteers at the Yellowknife Corps and Resource Centre

istries undertaken on behalf of the Army, Major Sobool and women from the corps deliver blankets to the local elders in the community. Food hampers and toys are delivered to individuals and families in town. For those in need in outlying areas, a local airline transports the hampers and toys so that no one has to be in need at Christmas.

ing the Christmas story.

On Christmas Day, the shelter is open, as it is every day of the year. After enjoying a Christmas concert and Christmas Eve candlelight service, people are invited to spend the day at the shelter. The staff engage clients in activities such as making gingerbread houses and playing games while they

wait for Christmas dinner. Community volunteers help serve the dinner and distribute gifts to all those staying in the shelter. 

Below: Mjrs Dale and Jo Sobool stay warm in their northern coats and hats. Bottom: Staff member Stacey Van Metre and shelter client Louis display a gingerbread house they made together

“Yellowknife may be cold and dark in December, but the fellowship and joy The Salvation Army brings at Christmas warms the heart and brings hope as we share God’s love”

—Major Jo Sobool

keep away the chill by staying busy with a variety of ministries and outreach opportunities.

“During the month of December, we have about four hours of daylight each day, but whether it is light or dark outside, we share the light of Jesus in our actions,” comments Major Jo Sobool. Among the many caring min-

The Sobools are also involved in bringing Christmas cheer to those who are incarcerated, by delivering gifts to the local correctional facility. Last December, they were invited to a community feast at the North Slave Corrections Centre where they presented each resident with a Salvation Army hygiene kit containing toiletries and a pamphlet tell-



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No Room at the Inn?

During the frigid winter months, the homeless die of exposure on our streets. Should they be forced into shelter?

In this Salvationist series, Captain Amy Reardon, Editor of Young Salvationist, U.S.A. National Headquarters, and Dr. James Read, Executive Director of The Salvation Army Ethics Centre in Winnipeg, dialogue about moral and ethical issues. This is the final instalment and Salvationist thanks them for their contributions.

DEAR JIM,

A recent *Globe and Mail* article made me aware of a debate in British Columbia concerning the homeless. The province is considering making it mandatory for people without housing to stay in shelters, such as those offered by The Salvation Army, on cold nights. Through the article, I learned about a power the people of Canada have extended to the government—something called *parens patriae*, meaning “parent of the nation.” As an outsider, I find that phrase truly enlightening. I guess it is understood in Canada that if one cannot care for himself, the government will care for him.

The concern is that some homeless people are afflicted with mental illness. Not only are they incapable of holding down jobs and maintaining homes, they are not of sound enough mind to seek shelter when they need it. For whatever reason, they would rather be outside.

I don't know if she was mentally ill or not, but last year a homeless woman known as Tracey burned to death in Vancouver. Local authorities had made multiple attempts that night to get Tracey to lodge in a shelter. She refused. Instead, she lit a candle under a tent, and the tent caught fire.

The paper reads: “When news of Tracey's death became public, outrage

abounded. How could government allow this to happen? It was a repeat of the chorus of criticism heaped on the city and the province a year earlier when a homeless man died of exposure during a sudden cold spell.”

The story is terribly sad. But the report bothers me as well. It bothers me because of two things that are not addressed. First, I don't understand why the first question would be, “How could government allow this to happen?” Why not, “How could her family allow this to happen?” Of course, she may not have family. But why isn't anybody asking? Why isn't anybody wondering why her family didn't have her

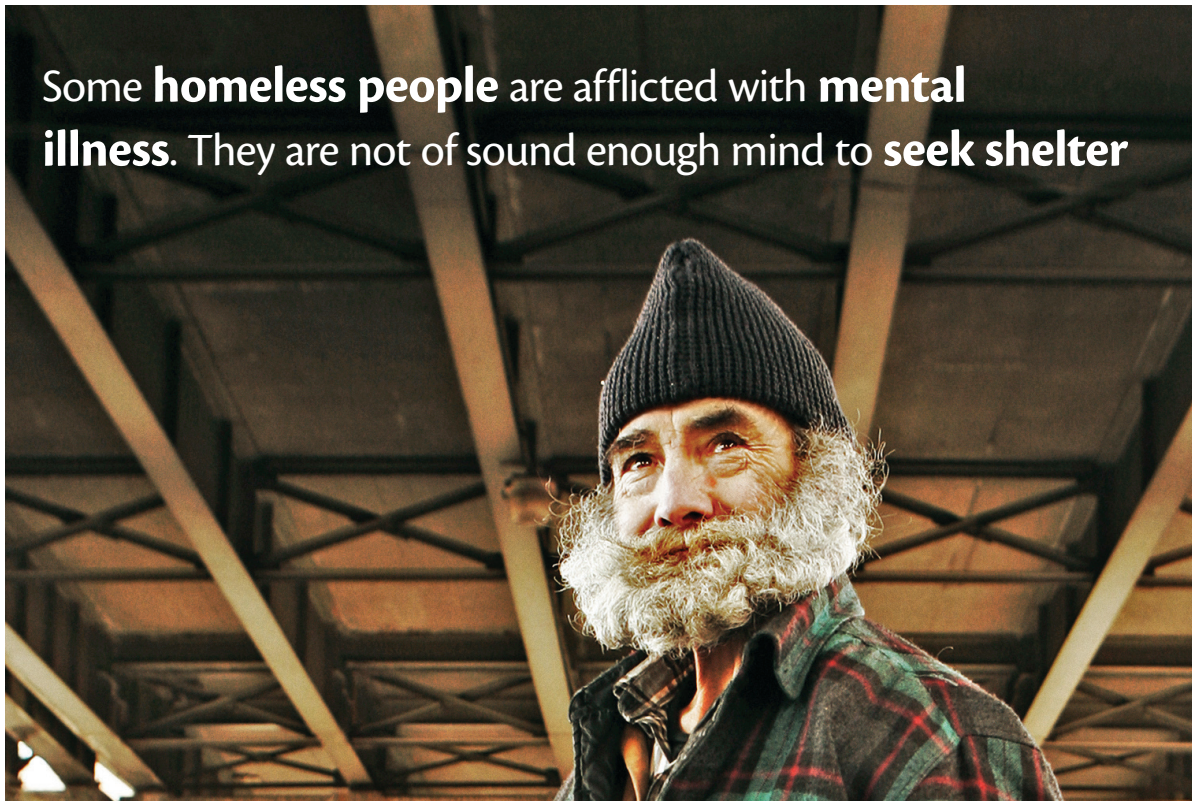
that no one mentions the safety of others. Both the *Globe and Mail* piece and an article on bclocalnews.com express concern over the safety of the homeless. I share that concern. But I suspect there are many ways in which homelessness threatens the community, not just the individual. In this case, imagine if the fire had spread. Who else could have been hurt?

AMY

DEAR AMY,

Homelessness is a complex social problem. And the temptation is to think it can be fixed easily. I'm not

Some **homeless people** are afflicted with **mental illness**. They are not of sound enough mind to **seek shelter**



in a hospital if she needed it, or why they weren't dragging her home? Maybe her family absolutely could not do anything for her. But no one even seemed to think of them, at least not in this report. Does *parens patriae* mean that the government replaces family, or do they just step in when family cannot?

The second thing that bothers me is

aware of all that's in the B.C. regulations, but you're right, it does seem too simple and paternalistic.

I sense that you are generally uneasy about government's *parens patriae* power (U.S. federal and state governments have it, too). Maybe we should return to that, but at least the reports make it sound like the government is interested in citizens

who have no shelter. The motivation to get people off Vancouver's (fashionable) streets during the Winter Olympics in February is more dubious. It sounds like the concern is more for how the city and country will appear in the eyes of the world than for homeless persons themselves.

Whatever the government's reasons are, more short-term housing has been made available. Now we are hearing complaints from business owners in the area. People who were formerly living on the streets are living in apartments over their stores and, as a result, regular customers are staying away. Apparently they fear for their safety. Not because people are homeless (which was your thought) but because now they *aren't* homeless! Ironical.

Journalist H. L. Mencken's great quip comes to mind: "For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple and wrong."

To shift the focus a little, Amy, you got me thinking in a new way about the Nativity story when you asked where Tracey's family was. I've wondered why there was no room in the inn, but I have assumed that it was because of the general influx of people for Caesar's census. Until you posed your question, it had never occurred to me to ask where Joseph's family was. He, Mary and Jesus were in Bethlehem because it was Joseph's family home after all. You'd think somebody would make space for kin. And then I wondered, "Were they out in the cold precisely because the family was shunning them?" Months earlier, Joseph had to come to grips with the shame of having a pregnant fiancée. Maybe the Bethlehem cousins weren't so gracious.

I am only speculating about Jesus' family circumstances, of course, but we don't have to speculate about the people who find a bed in Salvation Army shelters today. Bradley Harris is a consultant at the Army's territorial headquarters who specializes in these issues. He led a research project this past year, looking into the experience of people using our services. Family problems are one of the chief causes of homelessness. This squares with research reported in the *American Public Health Journal* in 2005, which found that 46 percent of homeless, single adults had been living with family immediately previous to living on the streets and that "interpersonal problems ... were the most common self-reported reasons for homelessness."

So, it would seem that if families were healthier, the emergencies that put people

on the street in the first place could be prevented. Whose responsibility is it to make families healthier? Ours? The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda presently provides over 6,000 emergency and short-term transitional housing beds. Should we aspire to continue to be the nation's largest innkeeper, or should we be putting our energies into strengthening families and other upstream interventions?

JIM

DEAR JIM,

I have never considered the family situation of Mary and Joseph in terms of their lodging challenges. But what you say makes perfect sense. Mary would have been a disgrace to the "Bethlehem cousins." Maybe they would have even considered it an affront to God to house her, considering her (perceived) circumstances.

Were Mary and Joseph out in the cold precisely because the family was shunning them?

Maybe Joseph couldn't bear to ask the relatives for a place to stay. Sometimes the tasks God assigns to us cause us trouble with our friends and relations!

You've really brought the true problem into focus. It is so easy to rush to treat the symptom, not the illness. I'm glad you have made me aware of the percentage of homeless adults who can trace their problem to family strife—not because I'm happy to hear about the strife, but because I think it's so important to understand the "why."

It is the God-given duty of the Army and the rest of the Church to tackle the source of all problems: sin. Sometimes people are victims of their own sin, and sometimes they are victims of someone else's. Dysfunctional families can be attributed to sin, of course, and many times innocent family members suffer for the sins of the selfish. When the Church doesn't address the problem of unhealthy family relationships, it doesn't address the sin that wreaks havoc in so many ways.

Someone needs to be there for those who are already in trouble, and we know that the Army is very experienced at that. We are grateful for—proud of—our role as innkeepers. But Jim, you have pierced my little Salvationist heart with corporate guilt! What are we doing to strengthen families? I know that where I live, we are not doing enough. Whose responsibility is it? Well, everyone's, I think—schools, churches, communities, etc. But let the Church lead the way, because this problem is an issue of love between humans, and that's our specialty.

AMY

DEAR AMY,

This is our last *Salvationist* column. And it's coming close to Christmas. We can't end on a note of guilt.

You're right that sin is at the source of all our problems, and that it's not just "out there." It's in us, too. We have all fallen short of the glory God intends for us. If King David is right, sin besets us even before we have consciousness. He didn't know much about life in the womb, but he said that he was "conceived" in sin (see Psalm 51:5). There is simply no getting away from the hard facts. But, thanks be to God, "where sin abound[s], grace much more abound[s]" (you can't beat the old *King James Version's* rendering of Romans 5:20)!

The Army could improve in a million ways. So could families. But as I see it, God is not prepared for our shortfalls to be the last or the most important fact. The incredible truth is that God is "for" us; God wants everyone and everything to be enlivened by grace.

As someone who has faced editor's deadlines each month, I know that guilt motivates. But, Amy, it has been the joy of exchanging interesting thoughts with you that has kept me on track. You've given me a treasured gift, and I'm going to miss our conversations.

Since this is our last column, let's also take a moment to thank our readers. They've given us a gift just by reading what we've written. And what great follow-up conversations I've had with Nelson and Gary and Karen and Alice and Hartley and...

Time to sign off. Merry Christmas to you, Rob and the boys, from Laurie and me. Celebrate God's indescribable gift and enjoy the experience of being caught up in God's love.

JIM 

Hidden Slavery

Shining a light on the victims of sex trafficking

BY CAPTAIN W. MARK STANLEY



My cellphone rang at 1:35 a.m. “Captain, it’s the police. We’ve raided a massage parlour, rescued three women and need a place for them to stay for the next few days.” We made the necessary arrangements as Victim Services brought the women to one of our facilities.

The women made little eye contact as they came through the door, each carrying everything they owned in a single, small suitcase. Our staff offered the women something to eat and helped them get settled, and even though our new guests spoke very little English, it was obvious that they were withdrawn, anxious and afraid.

In the morning after breakfast, one of the women, Ling (name changed), pointed to her cigarettes, pretended to light one, and asked, “Smoke?”

Staff led Ling outside to the patio. With hand gestures and the few English words she knew, Ling asked how long we were going to keep her locked up. It took a while for staff to assure her that she was in a safe place, that she was not being held and that she could go outside any time she wanted. Ling thought that she was still in police custody and that our building was part of the police station.

Staff explained that this was The Salvation Army, but it was obvious she’d never heard of us. One staff member made a sign of a cross in the air with her hand. A look of recognition came to Ling’s eyes, and for the first time since coming through our door, she smiled. “Church!” she exclaimed.

At lunch, the women all declined a second helping of food. Staff were puzzled since police interpreters had told us the women had been given very little to eat while in captivity. It was Ling who was able to explain that they could not afford to eat more. They thought they were still living under their captors’ rules, which meant paying for food—\$50 for a bowl of soup, \$10 for a piece of bread. It was a small glimpse inside their horrific ordeal.

Ling and her two friends were our guests for only a few days before flights

**One staff member
made a sign of a
cross. A look of
recognition came to
Ling’s eyes**

were arranged for them to return home to their families. During the brief time they spent with us, they gradually began to relax. There were hesitant smiles and tentative laughs. And then they were gone. It was a full week before the story hit the front page of the newspaper and the public learned of the city’s first alleged case of human trafficking.


The global picture of human trafficking is grim and disturbing. The U.S. State Department estimates that each year 600,000 to 800,000 women and children

are trafficked across international borders. The majority of these victims are forced into the commercial sex trade and deprived of their human rights and freedoms.

These are the hard, cold facts, but they do not tell the story behind the frightened faces that came to our centre in the middle of the night. These women suffered physical and emotional abuse and threats against self and family. They were deprived of food and sleep, and confined to small rooms for days at a time. It struck me that these women were someone’s sister, mother, daughter ... and that their families were worried and anxious for their safe return.

Every day we are bombarded with headlines, statistics and sound bites that tell us of the tragic events occurring around the globe. We can turn the page, flip the channel or change the station. Sometimes we are desensitized by the sheer volume of negative news. Yet, when it happens in our neighbourhoods, the story breaks through the numbness.

Catherine Booth said, “There is no improving the future without disturbing the present.” The dehumanizing reality of human trafficking must disturb us and move us to action. Isaiah 58:6 reads, “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”

We are still challenged and called to action by the well-known words of William Booth, “While women weep as they do now, I’ll fight!” 

Pondering Mary

In an instant, a peasant girl's life was turned upside down

BY MAJOR RAY HARRIS

If Mary was perplexed by the angel's greeting, she must have been floored by his news. Gabriel began, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28 NRSV). Then he went on to say, "And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus" (Luke 1:31). Mary was a woman in a man's world, an unmarried woman in a society of strict sexual codes. Perplexed. Baffled. Jarred. Mary's world was turned upside down.

In the midst of this turmoil, however, Mary exhibited a remarkable characteristic. True, she was perplexed, but she also "pondered what sort of greeting this might be" (Luke 1:29). After the birth of her son, shepherds visited her in the Bethlehem stable. They conveyed all that the angels had sung to them on the surrounding hills. While others were amazed, Mary "treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:18-19).

The word used for "pondering" in Luke's Gospel has the sense of "throwing together." Mary had the capacity to throw the news of Gabriel alongside the encouragement of Elizabeth, to toss in the chorus of the angels, then add the affirmations and warnings of Simeon and Anna (see Luke 2:25-38). Mary refused to jump to quick conclusions; she refused the quick answer to her perplexity. She was prepared to think it over, to ponder.

It's instructive to read these early chapters of Luke's Gospel during the month of December. A pondering Salvationist during December is an oxymoron. If there is a month in the year when we don't have time to think, it's the Christmas season. We stand at Christmas kettles, pack hampers, play carols in hospitals, host meals for the homeless and work hard to communicate with the media. Many of us come to the end of the Christmas Eve service just a little fatigued. Ponder during the season of Advent? Not active Salvationists!

Yet this is precisely the time to do so. Many insights into God's ways are conceived in the month of December. More than once I have stood at one of our Christmas kettles when a child walked

by with an adult. Moments later the same child came back to the kettle, reached up and put some money in it. "When I told her what you did with the money," explained the adult, "she wanted to put her allowance in the kettle." Our Christmas kettles have taught me much about trust.

It has also been my privilege to play Christmas carols with other Salvationist musicians in various institutions, including hospitals. Apart from the occasional complaint that our music was too loud, patients and staff gathered in appreciation.

all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). Our personal reflections best take place within the wider community. Ideally this includes the voices of people we trust and the greater story of God's salvation.

Mary still didn't fully understand, but her words to Gabriel stand as a profound witness to her capacity to trust: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Mary trusted God in this moment, and she also praised him: "My soul magnifies



The Annunciation, Henry Tanner (1898), Philadelphia Museum of Art

We took the music of Christmas into *their* world; there is something about that which resonates with the Incarnation.

It becomes evident in Luke's Gospel that while Mary pondered, she didn't do it in a vacuum. Mary was surrounded by a communal conversation. Elizabeth shared news of her own child who was to be a new Elijah (see Luke 1:17); Simeon thanked God for the child Jesus who in the words of Isaiah was to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:32); and Anna began "to speak about the child to

the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. . . . He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:46-53). Mary trusted the God who turns the world upside down, even though her own life was in turmoil.

That's worth pondering, especially during the month of December. 

Major Ray Harris is a retired Salvation Army officer. He enjoys watching Corner Gas reruns and running in Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park.

1929: A Crisis That Shaped The Salvation Army's Future

General John Larsson (Rtd)

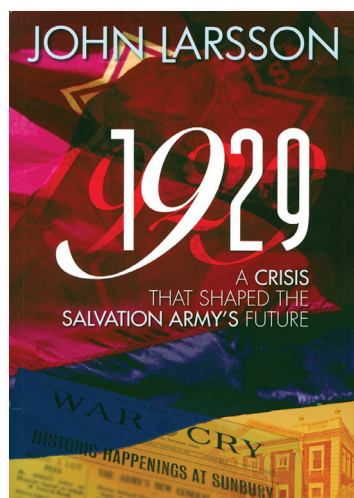
REVIEW BY KEN RAMSTEAD,
EDITOR, FAITH & FRIENDS AND FOI & VIE

The illness of General Bramwell Booth in 1929 precipitated a constitutional crisis that shook the Army world. When the dust had cleared, General Bramwell Booth, whose incapacitation and near-death had provoked the crisis, had been replaced. A High Council composed of Salvation Army leaders from around the world had been formed and had chosen his successor, Commissioner Edward Higgins. The events surrounding the gathering of the High Council and the subsequent legal proceedings significantly shaped the Army we know today. Yet, very little has been written about the topic. In spite of the controversy it generated at the time, few outside The Salvation Army are aware that the crisis occurred.

This has been ably remedied by General John Larsson's new book. Using archival sources, he guides the reader through the events that precipitated the crisis, as well as the twists and turns that played out in the courts and the media. He brings the key players to life, so that readers find themselves as gripped by each move and countermove as were those present at the time.

This was no dry, constitutional matter. A battle was on for the hearts and minds of Salvationists everywhere. General Booth's immediate family, as well as the reformers led by Commander Evangeline Booth, passionately believed their side must prevail. Both camps turned to the media to trumpet their cause, and press "leaks" and "exclusive" interviews were the order of the day. But as General Larsson points out, "1929 is a drama without villains. It is a story about good and revered Salvation Army leaders who disagreed sharply about the best way forward, but who were no less good or less esteemed because of their dispute about the Army's constitution."

This attractive and well-illustrated book deserves a wide audience, and not just in The Salvation Army. With his deft ability to distil complex legal and constitutional issues into readable prose, General Larsson has written a masterful work. "What shook the Army also shaped its future," states General Larsson. "Through those events of long ago, the Army was set on a path of reform that continues to this day. 1929 is part of our heritage."



Our People – DVD

The story of William and Catherine Booth and The Salvation Army

Major Peter Farthing invested more than five years producing *Our People*, a documentary about the early history of The Salvation Army. Farthing was inspired by the idea of making the classic stories of Army history available for today's young and new Salvationists. Besides its more than 500 images, the DVD has piano and violin music and is narrated by Russell Boulter, who has appeared in numerous television shows in the United Kingdom. *Our People* is especially suitable for preparing people for Army soldiery and adherence.



O Holy Night

Darren Bartlett with the North York Temple Band

North York Temple Band's guest vocalist for *O Holy Night* is Darren Bartlett, internationally acclaimed vocal performer and choral composer. The band's prayer for you as you enjoy this wonderful Christmas CD is that you would be refreshed, revitalized and, above all, moved closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.



God's Personal Strategy: Being Church—Living on Purpose

A roadmap that leads to spiritual re-awakening
by Dale Pilgrim

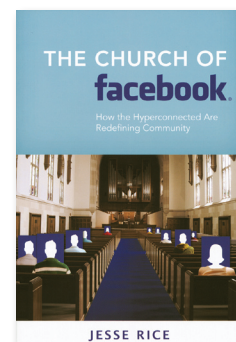
Many people use global positioning systems in their cars. Major Dale Pilgrim suggests that we need a GPS—God's Personal Strategy—as our moral and religious compass as well. Pilgrim reflects on the challenges facing the Church in an increasingly multicultural society. He believes the Church has maintained an undesirable status quo. *God's Personal Strategy* offers a series of workshop-style suggestions for congregational leaders who are ready to embrace constructive change.



The Church of Facebook

How the hyperconnected are redefining community
by Jesse Rice

Jesse Rice believes a revolution is underway—an online, worldwide movement that is changing how we interact and understand community. Every day millions of people connect through online social networks, sites that allow us to follow our friends and shape how they view us. Though personal profiles are revealing, Rice says they hint at even larger truths. They uncover our desire for identity, our craving to be known and our need to belong. Filled with fresh perspectives and provocative questions, this book encourages us to pursue authentic relationships with God and those around us.



Above products available from Salvation Army Christian Book and Supply Centres or online at salvationarmy.ca/store

ENROLMENT AND RECOGNITION



GODERICH, ONT.—Suncoast Citadel celebrates as new adherents and soldiers are welcomed. Above: Shane Martel, Lynda and David Kerley, Joanne Myatt, Lisa Walker, Brenda Peck, Tanya Johnston, Corrinne MacDonald, Duane Kalbfleisch, Kyle (Corrinne's son), and Howard MacDonald are enrolled as adherents. Also pictured are Cpts Krista and Tim Andrews, COs. Below: Ken Whitmore, Colleen Pennington and James Hardman are enrolled as soldiers



GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR, N.L.—The torch of leadership is passed on at Park Street Citadel. From left, Suzanne Wheeler, pastoral care director; Mjr Sandra Stokes, then CO; Clyde Downton, new CSM; ACSM Lorraine White; Walwin Blackmore, retired CSM; and CS Alex Collins

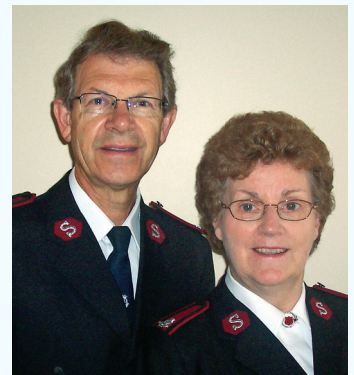
"Uncle" Charlie Reaches 100

PILLEY'S ISLAND, N.L.—More than 300 people celebrated the 100th birthday of Charlie Weir at the Pilley's Island Recreation Centre. "Uncle" Charlie, as everyone calls him, is the oldest soldier of the Pilley's Island Corps and one of the oldest residents of his community. Representatives from Pilley's Island town council and four nearby towns and several community groups brought greetings. Good wishes were read from the MHA Ray Hunter, Veteran's Affairs and the Queen. He attributes his longevity to walking and working a lot outdoors. Weir is proud to have raised 10 children and to have 30 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Pictured with him is Cpt Brad Oxford, CO



Officer Retirements

Majors Harvey and Doreen (nee Hollett) Canning feel humbled to have been called by God into ministry through The Salvation Army. Doreen was a member of the 1966-1968 Messengers of the Faith Session. Three years prior to her marriage in 1971 to Lieutenant Harvey Canning, Doreen's first assignment was as private secretary to the then provincial commander, Colonel Arthur R. Pitcher, in St. John's, N.L. After training in the Evangelists Session in 1967-1969, Harvey was appointed to the College for Officer Training in St. John's to which he and Doreen would later be appointed together. Their team service included corps appointments at Winterton, Corner Brook Temple, Trinity Bay South and St. John's Temple, N.L., at Glace Bay, N.S., Earls Court Citadel (now Yorkminster Citadel), Etobicoke Temple and Cedarbrae Community Church in Toronto, Edmonton Temple and Cambridge Citadel, Ont. Chaplaincy service took them to Halifax Grace Hospital and Toronto Grace Health Centre. Harvey and Doreen are blessed with the gifts of their three children: Todd (Jocelyn), Trinette, Trent (Christa) and granddaughter, Katelyn. "God has brought many wonderful people into our hearts during our 83 years of combined service," says Doreen. "In every ministry we experienced God's presence and leading. We give him all the glory and praise!"



Advisory Board Member Honoured

EDMONTON—Bruce Bowie of Edmonton was presented with the advisory board member of the year award by Commissioner W. William Francis, territorial commander, during the official opening and dedication of new camper accommodations at Pine Lake Camp, Alta. and Northern Ttys Div. Bowie has been a member of the Army's Edmonton advisory board for over 10 years. As host of CISN FM's radio breakfast show for 20 years, he has brought considerable media experience to discussions about communication strategies with The Salvation Army. Bowie has a passion for raising awareness about homelessness and on two occasions spent three days living on the streets to bring attention to the plight of the homeless. Bowie serves on the Army's community council for Edmonton community and family services. With his wife, Mary, he has taken a personal interest in various outreach programs operated by The Salvation Army. From left, Commissioners Marilyn D. and William Francis, territorial leaders; Bruce Bowie; and Mjrs Wendy and Fred Waters, divisional leaders



Salvationist Respected for Corps and Community Leadership

CONCEPTION BAY SOUTH, N.L.—Zita Butler is recognized for her leadership at the corps in Conception Bay South and in the community. Though Butler's home is only a few steps from the present corps building, it was many years before she took that short walk. Breast cancer and the ministry of her corps officers led her to commit her life to Jesus Christ in 1987. Two years later, she was diagnosed with lung cancer and testifies to having been miraculously healed. Over the past 20 years, she has served in various corps ministries, such as community care ministries secretary, Red Shield co-ordinator and Christmas kettle co-ordinator. Butler has also done door-to-door canvassing for the Red Cross, the Cancer Society, the Arthritis Society and the Canadian Bible Society. She has also given more than 40 years to the Girl Guides, serving as camp adviser and divisional commissioner. In 2006, Butler was named citizen of the year for Conception Bay South. In the photo with her are Mjrs Rosemary and Wayne Green, COs



Honoured For Exceptional Service

GANDER, N.L.—Retiring Envoys Graham and Beth King are presented with a certificate of exceptional service by Commissioner William W. Francis, territorial commander, at a Salvationist rally. The Kings became envoys after retiring from 47 years of employment in Nova Scotia. They served in various appointments in Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. "The corps in Buchans, N.L., would probably have closed had it not been for the Kings," acknowledges Lt-Col Alf Richardson, divisional commander for Newfoundland and Labrador. With the Kings are Commissioners William and Marilyn D. Francis, territorial leaders; Lt-Cols Alf and Ethel Richardson, divisional leaders; and Pearce Mullet



In November, the retirement write-up for Major Brenda Holnbeck incorrectly identified her former appointment as South Windsor instead of Eastwood-Windsor. *Salvationist* regrets the error.

An Invitation to Kingston Citadel's



Opening & Dedication Weekend of our new church home
816 Centennial Drive (at Taylor-Kidd Blvd.)
with Commissioners William & Marilyn Francis

SATURDAY JANUARY 16, 2010

11:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting followed by an 'Open House' until 2:00 p.m.

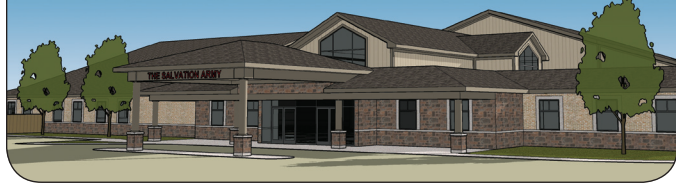
5:00 p.m. Celebration Banquet (call 613.548.1600 for tickets)

7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Concert with North York Temple Band (freewill offering)

SUNDAY JANUARY 17, 2010

10:30 a.m. Praise Service

please contact citadel@kingstonsa.ca
for more information



GAZETTE

TERRITORIAL Appointments

Cpt Elizabeth Nelson, special assignment, pro-tem, Saskatoon Bethany Home, Prairie Div (additional responsibility)

Promoted to Glory

Cpt Douglas Butt, from Whitby, Ont., Sep 11;
Mjr William Stoodley, from Grand Falls-Windsor, N.L., Oct 1

CALENDAR

Commissioners William and Marilyn Francis

Nov 21-Dec 3 ICO, London, England; Dec 5 Christmas With The Salvation Army, Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto; Dec 8 Christmas reception, Parliament Hill, Ottawa; Dec 9 Maxwell Meighen Centre, Toronto

Colonels Donald and Ann Copple

Dec 6 Mississauga Temple Community Church, Ont., Dec 12-15 Maritime Div

General Bramwell H. Tillsley (Rtd)

Dec 20 St. Paul's Anglican Church, Brockville, Ont.

Canadian Staff Band

Dec 5 Christmas With The Salvation Army, Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto; Dec 12 *Toronto Star* Christmas Carol concerts, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Toronto

TRIBUTE

CLINTON, P.E.I.—**Ethel Perrin (nee Clarke)** was promoted to Glory at the age of 103. Born in Paradise, N.L., Ethel moved to Long Pond, N.L., after marrying John Perrin. She was enrolled as an Army soldier in 1932. Ethel was a keen businesswoman and hard worker. After raising her children, she opened her home to foster children and later owned and operated a home for mentally challenged adults. She sponsored children from the developing world and supported countless charities with handmade donations. She retired at 85 and later moved to Prince Edward Island with her son and family. Ethel was honoured as a life member of the home league. She will be remembered for her giving spirit and her willingness to help whenever there was a need. Left with happy memories are sons Harold, William (Wanda) and John (Geraldine); eight grandchildren (including Major Wilson Perrin); 15 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren and two sisters.



HAMILTON, ONT.—**Major Edward Amos** was born in Brantford, Ont., where he was enrolled as a junior soldier and as a senior soldier. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and served in India during the Second World War. Following his marriage to Evelyn Noakes, they entered the training college and were commissioned in 1958 as members of the Courageous Session. They served in various corps appointments, as well as four years in public relations in Winnipeg. They were then appointed as administrators for senior citizens' residences for the last eight years before retiring. In retirement, Ed became the visitation officer for the then Hamilton Temple and conducted Bible studies and monthly worship services in nursing homes and hospitals. Ed displayed warmth and Christian grace toward those to whom he ministered. Left with loving memories are his wife, Evelyn; daughters Eleanor (Steve) Knight and Gloria (John) Ryan; sons Richard and Ronald; brother, Major James Amos; sister, Dorothy (Andrew) Reindl; and 13 grandchildren. Mrs. Major Evelyn Amos and family express their sincere thanks to their many friends who called, sent cards and e-mails, and upheld them in love and prayerful support during their sudden loss.



DEER LAKE, N.L.—**Major Baxter Davis** was born on Pinchard's Island, N.L. While employed in Gander, N.L., he attended The Salvation Army and became a soldier. He was commissioned as a Salvation Army officer in 1950 as a member of the Standard Bearers Session. Before marrying Lieutenant Maud Duffett, Baxter served as corps officer in Whitbourne, Newport and Norris Arm, N.L. Together they commanded nine corps, including Duckworth Street Corps in St. John's, N.L., Hespeler, Ont., and North Sydney, N.S. After transferring to men's social work, they served in Vancouver, Toronto, London, Ont., and St. John's. In 1985, Baxter was appointed as chaplain of Grace General Hospital in St. John's. After completing 41 years of service to God and the Army, he retired in Deer Lake. Baxter moved to the Glenbrook Lodge in St. John's in 2009. Baxter will be missed by wife, Maud; children Lorne, Gwen (Birt) and Gregory; daughter-in-law, Donna; extended family and friends.



SARNIA, ONT.—Born in Sarnia, Ont., **William (Bill) Lucas** was raised on a farm in Bunyan, Ont., and became an Army soldier in 1985. Before joining The Salvation Army, he was a lay minister in Lambton County for 22 years. When he joined the Army, he wore a high collar uniform along with a guernsey, in which he was dressed at his promotion to Glory funeral service. A faithful soldier of the cross, Bill is survived by his only child, daughter Rebecca Lucas.



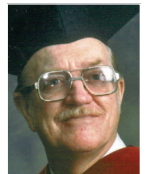
SARNIA, ONT.—Born in Dyers Bay, Ont., **Etta Lederman** became an Army soldier in 1986. Etta wholeheartedly participated in the work of community care ministries where she was treasurer for many years. She loved the outreach opportunities it gave her to evangelize for the Lord. Etta was the loving wife of George Lederman for 62 years and mother of Ronald Lederman.



TILLSONBURG, ONT.—**Kathleen ("Kay") Jean Gage (nee Kurtz)** was born in Eldersly, Sask., in 1932. The family moved to Brampton, Ont., where Kay met Clarence, her husband of 57 years. She served the Lord at Brampton Community Church as a Sunday school teacher, Bible study leader and women's ministry leader. She was a spiritual mentor to many children, youth and adults. Kay and Clarence also volunteered for many years at 100 Huntley Street in Burlington, Ont. Kay will be remembered by her six children, five sisters, six brothers and their families.

TILLSONBURG, ONT.—**Clarence Gage** was raised in a small farmhouse in Caledon, Ont. Following his marriage to Kay Kurtz in 1951, they continued to live on the farm on Innis Lake Road. Clarence was known as a very kind and gentle Christian. He played in the Brampton Community Church Band and also served as an usher. He and Kay had the gift of hospitality, with Clarence having a special way of making others feel at ease. In 2001, they moved to Tillsonburg, Ont., and used their gifts in the Tillsonburg Community Church. They remained faithful through every joy and hardship, serving the Lord as witnesses of God's grace and goodness. They are remembered by their children Nancy Shoemaker (Chris), Doug (Anne), Mjr Barbara Carey (David), Mjr Cindy Butler (Curtis), Stephen (Lisa) and Captain Christine Johnston (Jeff); sister, Vi Kurtz (Len); 10 grandchildren; sisters-in-law Major Joan Gage and Doreen Gage.

SARNIA, ONT.—Born in Pefferlaw, Ont., **Pastor (Dr.) Clarence Wood** was ordained with a doctorate in biblical and theological studies with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. After retiring and seeking other avenues of ministry, he and his wife became Salvation Army soldiers in 2008. His favourite words were the title of the song, *The Song of the Soul Set Free*. Clarence was the beloved husband of Rev. Joyce Wood, loving father of Darlene, Terry and Corrine, and grandfather of four grandchildren.



NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.—**Leo Arthur Wardell** was born in Strathroy, Ont., and served in the Canadian Forces with the 7th Field Engineers in the Second World War. He became a senior soldier at the Thorold Corps, serving as young people's sergeant major, delivering *The War Cry* to taverns and picking up children for Sunday school. When the Thorold Corps closed, he worshipped at the corps in St. Catharines, Ont., and later in Niagara Falls. Leo worked for the Foster Wheeler Company in St. Catharines for 38 years. In retirement, he enjoyed gardening and his workshop, making various items for family and friends. Leo often spoke of how good God was to him and his family, and never complained of the pain he was experiencing. He loved memorizing and reciting poetry to family and friends, discussing the Bible and having a daily quiet time with the Lord. Leo is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dorothy; children Major Donna Pitcher (David), Carol College (Richard), Marilyn Levere, Dora Dix, Connie Holmes (Bill), Patrick (Paula); a brother; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



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A Rose in Winter

Amid the sights and sounds of the season, pause to consider God's amazing love

BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAM W. FRANCIS

Christmas is “the most wonderful time of the year.” I love its tastes, smells, sights and sounds. Each season begins with a resolution: *Watch the eating this year!* But how can I pass over my wife's scrumptious baking, shared with office colleagues? Then there's Christmas dinner itself—the juicy, delectable turkey, mashed potatoes, hot gravy and our traditional red-velvet cake, lovingly baked to perfection. It's all so tantalizing. Resisting the temptation is easier said than done.

Not only the savoury food, but delightful aromas in the air bring peace and joy beyond description. The fresh scent of pine trees prompts us to take that deep and enjoyable breath. Gentle snowflakes descending on a cool, crisp evening remind us that Yuletide is an extraordinary time of year. The smells of hot apple cider and Christmas cookies as friends and families gather to sing, laugh and enjoy each other's company cause us to reflect on what is genuinely important in life.

The sights of Christmas are central to the celebration. Picture the brightly coloured blinking lights of city streets, snowmen greeting all who pass by, children on Santa's knee shrieking with excitement or fear. Visualize people dressed in their very best for a party, brilliantly decorated

store windows, musicians playing at one of our Army kettles. Christmas is, of course, more than a month-long party; it is the celebration of the year, the festival of the ages. Christmas is the birthday party for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords—our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Christmas is
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More than any other holiday or festival, it is the glorious Christmas music that is refreshing and inspiring. In addition to songs like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Jingle Bells* and *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, the celebrated Christmas carols convey peace, joy and warmth to the heart. One of my favourite carols,

Lo, How a Rose Ee'er Blooming, is heard infrequently—though it was sung in the Academy Award winning movie *Love Story* (1970). I am deeply moved by the insightful words by this anonymous, late 15th-century German poet. The verse was wedded to the melodious, haunting tune by Michael Praetorius in 1609. When singing this carol, I envision the beautiful deep-red rose in all its splendour, and even inexplicably smell its matchless fragrance. The rose in this stunning carol speaks of Jesus. He is the infant born to Mary, the child who has become our redeemer and friend. He is the “Rose of Sharon” (Song of Songs 2:1). He is the “beautiful one” (Song of Songs 2:13)—the long-awaited Messiah.

The first and last verse of this magnificent poem complete the all-embracing Christmas message. The carol begins with the tenderness of new life in the physical and spiritual realms. The final verse celebrates the good news that Christ is with us. He knows us intimately and will remain with us always.

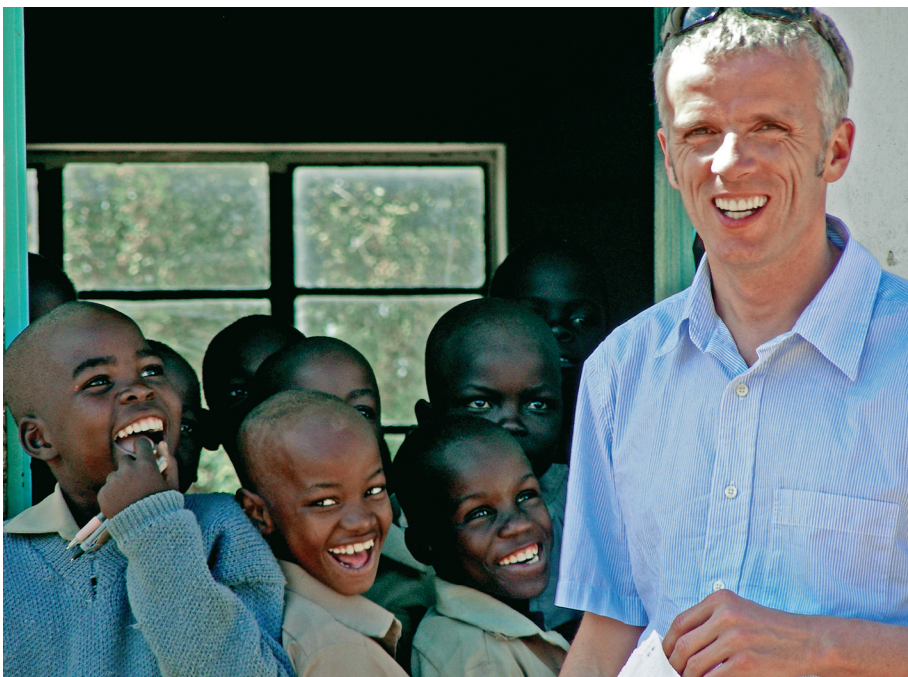
*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, from
tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of
old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the
cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*O Saviour, child of Mary, who felt
our human woe,
O Saviour, King of Glory, who dost
our weakness know;
Bring us at length we pray to the
bright courts of Heaven,
And to the endless day.*

May the tastes, smells, sights and sounds of this sacred season bring you immense joy and lasting peace. May you laugh, sing, smile, share and love. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. . . . And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Above all, may you receive God's wonderful, amazing love in a new and profound way—from now through “endless days.”

Have a happy, blessed and Christ-filled Christmas! ☺

Commissioner William W. Francis is the territorial commander of the Canada and Bermuda Territory.



MAX VINCENT: When you see children who are too poor to attend school, you are prompted to do something

We Have Hope

Whether he's teaching deaf students in Canada or helping African children get an education, Max Vincent believes the world can be a better place

INTERVIEW BY JOHN McALISTER,
SENIOR EDITOR

I attend Cariboo Hill Temple in Burnaby, B.C. I have worshipped there since moving to Vancouver in 1993. Over the years, I have been involved in many different activities, such as serving as a youth volunteer and greeting people at the door on Sundays.

* * *

I work in public schools teaching deaf and hard-of-hearing students. My students have varying degrees of hearing loss and participate in regular classrooms. I currently support 18 students in 10 different schools.

* * *

I've always had a sense of social responsibility, both in my work in the school system and on a more global scale. I feel that God has specifically positioned me to spread the word about the situation in Zimbabwe and Africa. In some of the schools that I work, I've had numerous opportunities to develop and oversee projects that support development in Africa.

I've found that children are always eager to help when they learn about others who are in need.

* * *

I'm continually challenged by Jesus' story of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25, particularly the King's response in verse 40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

* * *

In 2000, I took my first trip to Zimbabwe. Since that time, Africa has had a profound impact on my life on many different levels. Last July marked my 10th visit. I've spent much of my time at The Salvation Army's Tshelanyemba Hospital, which is located in the south of Zimbabwe.

* * *

The theme of social and global responsibility plays a big part in my involvement in Africa. When you see children who are too poor to attend school, when you


witness people who are malnourished and lacking food, you are prompted to do something. And when you begin to see people as they are meant to be seen, the experience changes you. They become more than just poor people, they become your friends, your neighbours. Just as in Canada, Zimbabweans want a home, food to eat, people to love them and the resources to take care of their children. These needs are universal, but when you live in rural Zimbabwe, you see the starkness of people struggling to have enough food to eat and the money to pay school fees.

* * *

I've always been moved by the resilience of the Zimbabwean people. Amid all their struggles, they maintain a smile, a welcoming spirit and an unwavering faith. When I think of my involvement in Africa, I often feel a bit selfish. I gain way more from my time there than I could ever give or contribute.

* * *

After living in Tshelanyemba for six months in 2006, I started the Silokwethemba Project. *Silokwethemba* is an Ndebele word meaning "we have hope." Despite all the struggles of daily life, Zimbabweans maintain a steadfast hope that things will be better. In 2009, the Silokwethemba Project provided assistance for more than 1,000 people. In the Tshelanyemba area, 720 orphans had their school fees paid and 160 people at the hospital received assistance with food. This year we also branched out to Rwanda, feeding over 130 preschoolers in a school north of Kigali.

We are also involved in many community-based projects. The Silokwethemba team consists of a core group, mostly from the Vancouver area, who assist with fundraising and administration. There are often days when I feel like I have two full-time jobs, working as a teacher and supporting the Silokwethemba Project. I really appreciate how God throws opportunities at us to challenge and push us beyond our boundaries. 



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